

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MUSCAT 00730 250507Z

10

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

/057 W

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R 250439Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1257

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MUSCAT 730

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PROP, MU, LY

SUBJECT: OMAN AND PRESS CENSORSHIP

1. IN AN INEFFICIENT WAY, PRESS CENSORSHIP HIT JUNE 16 EDITION OF GULF MIRROR PUBLISHED IN BAHRAIN. THIS IS FIRST INSTANCE OF LOCAL CENSORSHIP TO EMBASSY'S KNOWLEDGE. OUR COPY OF MIRROR ARRIVED INTACT THROUGH INTERNATIONAL MAIL. HOWEVER, COPIES ON NEWSSTANDS HAD FRONT PAGE ARTICLE PHYSICALLY CUT OUT--WE ASSUME MININFO PERFORMED THIS LABORIOUS TASK. ARTICLE IN QUESTION WAS VERY BRIEF REPRIS OF PRIME MINISTER JALLOUD'S FIREY "EVACUATION DAY" REMARKS THREATENING LIBYAN INTERVENTION IN DHOFAR REBELLION. ARTICLE ALSO PICKED UP JALLOUD'S COMMENTS RE INVOLVEMENT OF AMERICAN FORCES, BUT NO ONE HERE LIKELY TO BELIEVE THAT CANARD.

2. BASED ON CONVERSATIONS WITH OMANI OFFICIALS OVER TIME, WE BELIEVE THAT THEY DO NOT GIVE MUCH CREDIT TO LIBYAN THREATS. MOTIVATION BEHIND CENSORSHIP MORE LIKELY IS TO MUFFLE LOCAL CRITICISM OF IRANIAN, JORDANIAN, AND BRITISH EFFORTS.

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ZWEIFEL

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Message Attributes

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